



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 169**

January Session, 2013



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF CHILDREN.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-203a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) Not later than January 1, [2007] 2014, the Department of  
4 Education shall (1) develop guidelines for addressing the physical and  
5 mental health needs of students in a comprehensive manner that  
6 coordinates services, [including services provided by municipal parks  
7 and recreation departments,] and (2) make available to each local and  
8 regional board of education a copy of the guidelines. The department  
9 shall develop the guidelines after consultation with (A) the  
10 chairpersons and ranking members of [(i)] the joint standing  
11 [committee] committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
12 matters relating to education, [and (ii) the select committee of the  
13 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children]  
14 children and public health, (B) at least one state-wide nonprofit  
15 organization with expertise in child wellness or physical exercise,  
16 [and] (C) the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, (D) the  
17 members of the General Assembly who served as the chairpersons of  
18 the mental health services working group of the Bipartisan Task Force  
19 on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety appointed on

20 January 15, 2013, by the president pro tempore, majority leader and  
21 minority leader of the Senate and the speaker, majority leader and  
22 minority leader of the House of Representatives, and (E) the persons  
23 who served as members of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission  
24 established by the Governor on January 3, 2013. The guidelines shall  
25 not be deemed to be regulations, as defined in section 4-166. Local and  
26 regional boards of education may establish and implement plans based  
27 on the guidelines in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

28 (b) The guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Plans  
29 for engaging students in daily physical exercise during regular school  
30 hours and strategies for engaging students in daily physical exercise  
31 before and after regular school hours in coordination with municipal  
32 parks and recreation departments, (2) plans for assessing student  
33 mental health needs and strategies for addressing those needs, (3)  
34 strategies for coordinating school-based health education, programs  
35 and services, [(3)] (4) procedures for assessing the need for  
36 community-based services such as services provided by school-based  
37 health clinics, municipal parks and recreation departments, family  
38 resource centers and after-school programs, and [(4)] (5) procedures  
39 for maximizing monetary and other resources from local, state, [and]  
40 federal and private sources to address the physical and mental health  
41 needs of students.

42 (c) Not later than April 1, [2007] 2014, each local and regional board  
43 of education may (1) establish a comprehensive and coordinated plan  
44 to address the physical and mental health needs of students, and (2)  
45 base its plan on the guidelines developed pursuant to subsection (a) of  
46 this section. The board may implement such plan for the [2007-2008]  
47 2014-2015 school year and may have a plan in place for each school  
48 year thereafter.

49 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) There is established a  
50 community-wide public health collaborative pilot program focused on  
51 reducing the impact of mental or emotional trauma on children. The  
52 program shall be developed by the Department of Education, the

53 members of the General Assembly who served as members of the  
54 mental health services working group of the Bipartisan Task Force on  
55 Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety, appointed on January  
56 15, 2013, by the president pro tempore, majority leader and minority  
57 leader of the Senate and the speaker, majority leader and minority  
58 leader of the House of Representatives and the persons who served as  
59 members of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, established by the  
60 Governor on January 3, 2013, in conjunction with an advisory  
61 committee selected pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and  
62 comprised of (1) representatives of state agencies and departments,  
63 community organizations, private provider agencies operating  
64 programs that impact the well-being of children and child advocacy  
65 organizations, (2) parents, guardians or caretakers of children that  
66 have experienced mental or emotional trauma, (3) health care  
67 professionals that serve children and families, and (4) child care  
68 providers.

69 (b) The program shall: (1) Provide funding to (A) increase the  
70 availability of social, emotional, behavioral and mental health support  
71 in school-based health clinics, (B) expand the availability of social,  
72 emotional, behavioral and mental health support in the pilot  
73 communities by identifying a network of mental health care providers  
74 and physicians, (C) screen children from birth through grade twelve  
75 for evidence of mental or emotional trauma, and (D) coordinate  
76 community support initiatives and outreach for children from birth  
77 through grade twelve suffering from mental or emotional trauma; (2)  
78 ensure children receive the necessary emotional and mental health  
79 support they need for academic and life success; and (3) establish  
80 results-based accountability measures to track progress towards the  
81 goals and objectives outlined in the program, including, but not  
82 limited to, (A) the number of substantiated reports of children from  
83 birth through grade twelve who are victims of abuse or neglect in the  
84 pilot communities, (B) the number of incidents of violence involving  
85 children from birth through grade twelve in the pilot communities,  
86 and (C) the level of academic achievement of children in kindergarten

87 to grade twelve, inclusive, including, but not limited to, the grade  
88 distribution, number of disciplinary incidents reported and high  
89 school graduation rate in each pilot community.

90 (c) Not later than January 1, 2014, the chairpersons of the mental  
91 health services working group of the Bipartisan Task Force on Gun  
92 Violence Prevention and Children's Safety shall (1) appoint the  
93 members of the advisory committee described in subsection (a) of this  
94 section, and (2) identify three pilot communities of varying social and  
95 economic demographics in which to implement the program.

96 (d) Not later than January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, each  
97 pilot community shall submit a report on the progress of the program,  
98 including the results-based accountability measures, to the  
99 Department of Education, the chairpersons and ranking members of  
100 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
101 cognizance of matters relating to education, children and public health,  
102 the members of the General Assembly who served as members of the  
103 mental health services working group of the Bipartisan Task Force on  
104 Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety and the persons who  
105 served as members of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, in  
106 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

107 (e) Each pilot community may designate an intermediary  
108 organization to receive and distribute funding pursuant to this section.  
109 On or before August 1, 2014, each pilot community shall notify the  
110 Department of Education as to whether an intermediary, local board of  
111 education or municipality shall receive and distribute funding  
112 pursuant to this section.

113 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) The sum of six million  
114 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Education for the fiscal  
115 year ending June 30, 2014, for purposes of section 2 of this act.

116 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) The Commissioner of  
117 Children and Families, in cooperation with the Commissioner of

118 Mental Health and Addiction Services shall, within available  
119 appropriations, develop and implement a plan to improve children's  
120 mental health. The plan shall include recommendations for short-term  
121 and long-term initiatives for providing comprehensive mental health  
122 assessments, early intervention and treatment services for children  
123 from birth through grade twelve.

124 (b) Such plan shall include recommendations to: (1) Coordinate  
125 provider services and interagency referral networks for children from  
126 birth through grade twelve to maximize resources and minimize  
127 duplication of services; (2) create guidelines, in cooperation with the  
128 Commissioner of Education, for incorporating social and emotional  
129 development standards into elementary and secondary school  
130 education programs; (3) appropriate funds for children's mental health  
131 assessments, early intervention and treatment services to state and  
132 local agencies; (4) improve state and local integration and coordination  
133 of federal, state and local funds for children's mental health care; (5)  
134 develop a qualified network of mental health care providers to  
135 recognize, diagnose and provide mental health care services to  
136 children from birth through grade twelve and the families of such  
137 children; (6) gather information on best practices and model programs  
138 and disseminate such information to individuals, state and local  
139 agencies, community-based organizations and other public and private  
140 organizations; (7) create a children's mental health care system, in  
141 coordination with a working group of representatives of state agencies  
142 and departments, community organizations, private provider agencies  
143 operating programs that impact the well-being of children and  
144 families, parents and other caretakers of children, child advocacy  
145 organizations and health care professionals; and (8) establish results-  
146 based accountability measures to track progress towards the goals and  
147 objectives outlined in the program.

148 (c) Not later than July 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Children and  
149 Families shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
150 4a of the general statutes, the plan to the General Assembly and the

151 Governor. Not later than July 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the  
 152 Commissioner of Children and Families shall submit, in accordance  
 153 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a progress  
 154 report on the program and recommendations for revisions thereof.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	10-203a
Sec. 2	October 1, 2013	New section
Sec. 3	October 1, 2013	New section
Sec. 4	October 1, 2013	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In sections 1(a), 2(a) and 2(d), "the members of the General Assembly who served as" was added prior to "the chairpersons of the mental health services working group of the Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety" and "the persons who served as members of" was added prior to "the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission" for accuracy; in section 2(a), "selected pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and" was added for clarity; in section 2(b), "community" was changed to "pilot communities" for clarity and consistency and "inclusive" was deleted for clarity; in section 2(c), "described in subsection (a) of section 2 of this act" was added for clarity; in section 2(d), "2014" was changed to "2015" for accuracy; in section 2(e), "including but not limited to, the United Way or Community Foundation" was deleted for statutory consistency; in section 4(a), (b) and (c), "program" was changed to "plan" for accuracy and consistency; in section 4(b) "include recommendations to" was added for clarity and statutory consistency; and technical revisions were made for clarity and consistency.

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*